

Spring 1-15-1997

## ENG 1002-057: Composition and Literature

Spear

*Eastern Illinois University*

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## English 1002 C: A course description and syllabus.

Instructor: Spear  
Office: Coleman Hall 332  
Phone: 581-7011 or 345-9684  
Office Hours: 2:00 - 3:00 M and W  
and by appointment.

### Required purchases:

lined looseleaf paper, please write on every other line  
a spiral notebook to be used as a journal for this class only  
four exam booklets (available at the Union Bookstore)

### Textbooks:

Charters, Ann. The Story and Its Writer.  
Griffith, Kelly. Writing Essays About Literature.  
Jacobus, Lee A. The Bedford Introduction to Drama.  
Meyer, Michael. Poetry: An Introduction

### Writing as a Process

Writing is a teachable skill, like carpentry or painting or playing the guitar. The big difference is that you can have a wonderful life without ever becoming a carpenter or painter or musician, but effective writing is an indispensable skill that will help you along in whatever role you create for yourself. Rumor has it that good writing is the product of inspiration, but this is for the most part a fallacy. Good writing is not really even a product at all; it is a process. And, as Linda Flower says in Problem Solving Strategies for Writing, "if a writer's method relies on waiting for inspiration, she may have a long and uninterrupted wait."

The process theory of writing also does away with the old notion of "first you think it up, then you write it down." What happens more often than not is that you write your way toward what you believe: you discover new ideas as you write. Writing becomes a thinking process that improves with practice. That is why we will be keeping journals. The journal writing technique is a way of practicing the necessary skills in way that adds up to many many pages, without demanding eight or ten papers from you. It also gives you a no-pressure environment in which to warm up your skills.

### English 1002

The prerequisite for this course is the successful completion of English 1001 C or its equivalent. No student may take 1002 C without having satisfied this prerequisite. This is because in our work here we will be applying the skills studied in

1001 C to the specific purpose of writing about three major genres of literature: short fiction, drama, and poetry.

Real life writing situations, situations in which you may be applying for a job, a promotion, a grant, etc., always have a specific purpose and audience. General writing skills and talents remain as pure potential unless they can be harnessed for a purpose and fitted to the needs of a specific audience. As we write about literature, we are really practicing one application of the art of fitting and harnessing.

## Grades

Your grade will be determined by averaging the scores from eight writing assignments. A journal, collected once near mid-term and again near the end of the semester, constitutes two of the assignments. There will also be one essay about a work of Short Fiction we have studied, one essay about a work of Drama we have studied, one essay about one or more works of Poetry we have studied, as well as a mid-term and final examination of essay nature. The eighth assignment will consist of a variety of quizzes and an assesment of your class participation.

This may be one of the hardest classes you will take at the university, and it certainly will be one of the most important because, in a way, you are simultaneously attending all of your university classes that will follow. I am available by appointment at your convenience if I can help, and I have included my home phone number. Also, there is an excellent -- and free -- service available to you at the Writing Center, Coleman Hall 301. You will walk out of the door with a better paper every single time.

If an assignment is late, it will be docked one half letter grade for each class session it is late. Papers that have still not been submitted two weeks after the due date will be regarded as "missing" and will receive a -1. They may not be made up. (See "Grading," below.)

## Grading

Your grade will be determined by your performance on the following tasks:

- 12.5% -- Essay on Short Fiction
- 12.5% -- Journal at mid-term
- 12.5% -- In class essay at mid-term
- 12.5% -- Essay on Drama
- 12.5% -- Essay on Poetry
- 12.5% -- Journal at semester's end
- 12.5% -- Final Examination
- 12.5% -- Quizzes and Class Participation

I will use the following values in averaging your grades:

A+ = 4.2	B+ = 3.2	C+ = 2.2	D+ = 1.2	F = 0.0
A = 4.0	B = 3.0	C = 2.0	D = 1.0	Missing = -1.0
A - = 3.8	B - = 2.8	C - = 1.8	D - = 0.8	

I will use the following cutoff points in determining final grades:

A = 4.2 to 3.8

B = 3.7 to 2.8

C = 2.7 to 1.8

N/C = 1.7 and below

This is an A, B, C, or no-credit class, so you can't get a D or an F, but if you get a N/C you will have to take it again. Invest your talents and time in this class and you will never regret it.

#### Attendance

If, at the end of the semester, your average falls one or two decimal points below the cutoff point for the next higher grade, I will assign you the higher grade if you have had no more than 3 unexcused absences.

#### Journals

Requiring you to keep a journal is a blessing in disguise. It is a place for you to help satisfy departmental requirements for the quantity of writing you produce, free from some of the limitations associated with producing a polished rhetorical artifact. Journal entries can record your impressions of the works you read and serve as practice fields for the essays you subsequently generate. Each day's entry should consist of at least one hundred and fifty words. The journals will be collected twice during the semester, and their evaluations will constitute a significant portion of your grade.

#### Information for Students with Disabilities

If you have a documented disability and wish to receive academic accommodations, please contact the Coordinator of Disability Services (581-6583) as soon as possible.

#### Plagiarism Policy

I am required to say this about the English Department's policy concerning plagiarism:

"Any teacher who discovers an act of plagiarism -- 'The appropriation or imitation of the language, ideas, and / or thoughts of another author, and representation of them as one's original work' (Random House Dictionary of the English Language) -- has the right and the responsibility to impose upon the guilty student an appropriate penalty, up to and including assignment of a grade of F for the assigned essay, and a grade of N/C for the course, and to report the incident to the Judicial Affairs office.

Pretty strong language for a pretty serious offense; it occurs, and has resulted, in some cases, in expulsion from the university. We're learning a survival skill here, and a cheater is only cheating himself.

Syllabus for English 1002C, section 60; Spring semester, 1997.

- Jan. 13 Introduction to the class: composition and literature.  
Review of Syllabus.  
Review of Strategies of Invention  
Writing about literature:  
    MLA Format  
    Audience and Purpose  
    Concepts versus Description  
    Present Tense
- 15 Read Woody Allen's, "The Kuglemass Episode," p. 32 in Charters.  
Journal entry on your reading.  
In class discussion.  
In-class diagnostic essay
- 20 Dr. King's Birthday -- no class
- 22 Read Atwood's, "Happy Endings," p. 66 in Charters.  
Journal entry on your reading.  
Writing groups.  
In class discussion.
- 27 Read Steinbeck's, "The Chrysanthemums," p 1206 in Charters.  
Journal entry on your reading.  
In class discussion.
- 29 Read Gilman's "The Yellow Wallpaper," p. 531 in Charters.  
Journal entry on your reading.  
In class discussion.
- Feb. 3 Read Oates', "Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been?"  
    p. 1009 in Charters.  
Journal entry on your reading.  
Writing groups.  
In class discussion.
- 5 View video excerpt from Smooth Talk.  
In class discussion.

- Feb. 10 Read Carver's, "What We Talk About When We Talk About Love,"  
p. 243 in Charters.  
Journal entry on your reading.  
In class discussion.
- 12 \* Bring four copies of a draft of an essay on a work of fiction we have  
studied.  
Peer evaluation via Writing groups.
- 17 Mandatory conferences this week -- no class.
- 19 Mandatory conferences this week -- no class.
- 24 \* Turn in revised Essay on Short Fiction.  
Introduction to Drama.  
Please bring your Jacobus Drama.
- 26 Read Ibsen's, A Doll House, p. 559 in Jacobus.  
Journal entry on your reading.  
In class discussion.
- Mar. 3 View video excerpt and discuss.
- 5 Class discussion of A Doll House.  
Journal entry on a theme from Ibsen.  
\* Turn in journals.
- 10 Mid-term in-class essay.
- 12 \* Mid-term in-class essay continued.

#### SPRING BREAK

- 24 Read Miller's, "Death of a Salesman," p. 1000 in Jacobus.  
Journal entry on your reading.  
In class discussion.
- 26 Journal entry on your re-reading of parts of Miller's play.  
View video.  
In class discussion.

- Mar. 31 View video.  
Group work on paper topics.
- April 2 Discussion of comparisons and contrasts.  
Grammar review.
- April 7 \* Turn in revised Essay on Drama.  
Introduction to Poetry.  
Please bring your Meyer Poetry: An Introduction.  
Poetry and Music.
- 9 Poetry and Music continued.  
Bring in your requests.  
Journal entry on a favorite song with poetic lyrics.
- 14 Read Emily Dickinson's poems, p. 257 - 275 in Meyer, esp. "I  
Heard a Fly Buzz When I Died, Tell All the Truth, and I Like  
a Look of Agony."  
Read Eybers, p. 453, and Pickard, p. 282.  
Journal entry on your readings.  
In class discussion.
- 16 Read Robert Frost: "The Road Not Taken, The Pasture, Mending  
Wall, Home Burial, Fire and Ice, and Stopping by Woods on  
a Snowy Evening."  
Read Kinnell, p. 322; Coursen, p. 323; and Swennes, p. 324.  
Journal entry on your readings.  
In class discussion.
- 21 Read selected poetry to be announced.  
Journal entry on your readings.  
In class discussion.
- 23 \* Turn in Essay on Poetry.  
\* Turn in journals.  
Selected readings in class.
- 28 Final in-class essay.
- 30 \* Final in-class essay continued.